

File under NSC and CIA **SECRET**

23 April 1957

M. P. C. *mpe*

MEMORANDUM FOR RECORD

SUBJECT: List of Selected Historical Records in National Security Council Relating to CIA, 1953-56

1. Since CIA is directly an arm of the NSC (both by legislative statutes and by executive directives), the NSC's relations with CIA between 1953 and 1956 are of obvious importance to any historical understanding of CIA during that period. Both (a) the records kept by the NSC itself and (b) those records kept in CIA that relate to NSC affairs would seem to be of unquestioned value for historical evidence that might contribute to such understanding.

2. The main body of NSC records was in the custody of the NSC Executive Secretary as of August 1954. (See inventory below, based on a survey in August 1954 by the DD/A's *✓* Records Management Staff, which serves along with other DD/A and later DD/S offices as a "housekeeping" service to the NSC and its staffs.) Presumably that situation still prevails today. At the same time there are several major series of NSC-related records within CIA. (See especially the Historical Staff's inventories, previously prepared by me in recent days, of the records of the O/DCI, of the O/DDI, and of ONE.) Of these two major categories, the NSC's own records are probably most useful for understanding CIA in the larger context of the U. S. Government's national security organization as a whole;

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while CIA's records bearing on NSC affairs are of special significance for understanding intra-CIA and IAC activities for marshalling intelligence support for the NSC's deliberations and policy actions between 1953 and 1956. (There are doubtless also, finally, still other NSC-related records in the DD/P group for this period, relating to CIA's operational support to NSC policy actions. The latter records have not, however, been surveyed by the Historical Staff, although schedules for some of them are on file in the Records Management Staff, DD/S.)

3. The records described below are limited to those in the custody of the Executive Secretary's office and other staffs of the NSC, and they are further limited to those particular series (12 out of 14 series maintained by the NSC) which appear to me to contain useful historical evidence for the CIA history for 1953-56, as it is outlined in the plan as recently approved by Colonel Grogan. The listings below are based, not on a direct examination of the records themselves (access to which would doubtless involve further preliminary interviews and staff assistance from higher authority), but solely on an examination of the DD/A Records Management Staff's routine survey of those files, made in inventory form in August 1954 and inspected by me today. This survey, although it was made more than two years before the cut-off date (December 1956) for the projected 1953-56 history, is nevertheless highly valid for the factual descriptions of the records that it contains, as of 1954, and it is probably valid to a certain extent for 1955 and 1956 as well.

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4. The Records Management Staff serves, like other DD/A and (later) DD/S offices and staffs, as one of CIA's "housekeeping" offices for the NSC, in accordance with long standing administrative arrangements between CIA/CIG first with NIA and then with the NSC. (See the 1950-53 history, Chapter X, for detail. Parenthetically it is interesting to note that, while the NSC depends routinely on CIA for a variety of administrative services, including the care of its current and historical records, it has no corresponding arrangement with CIA for historical-research and historical-analysis service.) Under these administrative-services agreements, the RM Staff performs two kinds of housekeeping functions for the NSC that directly concern the Historical Staff's use of the NSC's historical records: (1) it provides "management-improvement" service to the NSC by assisting them in "scheduling," discarding, and otherwise disposing of so-called "useless" records of the NSC; and (2) it provides storage space and reference service to the NSC, at the CIA Records Center, on any non-current records that NSC may (from time to time decide to) retire to that Center. Whether the NSC has, indeed, actually transferred any of its non-current records to the Records Center for the period 1953-56 is not revealed in the RM Staff's records control schedule, cited above. This information will be forthcoming when the Historical Staff undertakes a preliminary survey of the holdings at the Records Center.

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Records of the NSC and its Staffs

(as of August 1954)

1. "NSC Reports (Studies) File," undated. Volume not indicated. Consists of three sub-series: (1) the "regularly numbered" NSC series, numerically arranged; (2) the "Mill Papers," that is NSC studies in process of preparation, also numerically arranged; and (3) "Unnumbered NSC Papers," arranged alphabetically by "title of paper." This apparently comprehensive file contains "finished reports and studies, amendments, annexes, implementation instructions, and progress reports," all presumably prepared by the NSC staffs, along with "background papers," the latter consisting of "staff studies, statements of policy, contributions of participating agencies, drafts, correspondence, and other related material." All of these records relate broadly to "the policies of the Government of the United States relating to National Security."
2. "Cumulative Index," undated. Volume not indicated. Bound volume (volumes?), comprising an index to NSC reports and studies (presumably an index to series no. 1 above), entitled, "Policies of the Government of the United States Relating to the National Security."
3. "Status of Projects," undated. Volume not indicated. Chronologically organized "formal reports of status of current NSC studies."
4. "Annual Progress Reports," undated. Volume not indicated. These also are "bound volumes," prepared annually, and contain (among other items?) texts of Council decisions during a given calendar year.
5. "NSCID File," undated. (Probably goes back to 1947, when NSC was established.) Volume not indicated. These are the National Security Council's "Intelligence Directives" (not to be confused with its policy and action directives addressed to policy and operational agencies of the U. S. Government), together with "correspondence and related material." Arranged by Directive number. (No reference is made to any corresponding pre-1947 files relating to the NIA's intelligence directives, which the NSC staff presumably inherited when the NIA was liquidated in 1947. The latter files may by now have been retired to the CIA Records Center, or possibly to the DCI's Executive Registry.--M. P. C.)
6. "NSC Determinations," undated. Volume not indicated. This is apparently a special file, relating to "special studies on trade between various countries and the Soviet Bloc in the light of

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Section 1302 of the Third Supplemental Appropriation Act of 1951." (Since the file was still regarded, in August 1954, as an "active" file, the file probably extends quite beyond Fiscal Year 1951 and probably contains implementing records dating as late as 1954.--M.P.C.) The file, as described, contains "final reports and supplements, background material, and correspondence." Arranged by "report number."

7. "Council Meetings File," undated. Volume not indicated. This file consists of "agenda, records of action, notices of? cancellations of NSC meetings, and drafts of records of action."

8. "Planning Board Meetings File," undated. Volume not indicated. This file contains "formal announcements and records of action of the NSC Planning Board, with related correspondence." Arranged "by subject."

9. "Senior Staff Meetings File," undated. Volume not indicated. Like series no. 8, this file contains "formal announcements and records of actions," in this case of the NSC Senior Staff, along with "related correspondence." Arranged by subject.

10. "Subject Files," undated. Volume not indicated. These files, arranged by subject, relate to the internal operation and administration of the NSC and its staff and committee organizations. Included are "correspondence, surveys, organization charts, legal documents, and related material"; also housekeeping records such as "requisitions for equipment and supplies, applications for employment, telephone toll slips, ...papers on charitable fund-raising drives, and related administrative material." (Financial matters are apparently excluded; see series no. 11, below.)

11. "Budget Files," undated. Volume not indicated. Contains budget estimates, statements prepared for the Senate Appropriations Committee (and probably also for other Congressional Committees, as well as for the U. S. Bureau of the Budget), and "related correspondence." Arranged "by date" (probable meaning: by fiscal year?).

14. "Source Files," undated. Volume not indicated. These files consist of "reference copies of documents forwarded to the NSC for informational purposes and on which no official action has been taken." These files are scheduled to be destroyed "when obsolete or when the information...therein is of no further interest to the NSC."

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Records in CIA Relating to NSC Affairs

(as of 1956)

There was probably not a single office in CIA between 1953 and 1956 that was not influenced by the NSC or that did not influence the NSC, directly or indirectly, during that period. On that assumption, therefore, there are probably some records, at least, in every single office in CIA that bear, directly or indirectly, on CIA's numerous and complicated relationships with the NSC. No attempt is made here to list all such records, if only because the Historical Staff's surveys to date are not completed. However, there are suggested below some of the major series of CIA records of certain offices (in particular) which had direct relationships with the NSC, the NSC Senior Staff, the NSC Planning Board, the OCB, or (up to the summer of 1953) the PSB. See especially the following Historical Staff memos for record:

1. List of Selected Historical Records in O/DCI, 1953-56 (memo dated April 12, 1957), especially (but not exclusively) series nos. 1, 4, 5 (NSC Planning Board), 10 (OCB); and supplementary lists on p. 6 (PSB) and p. 7 (OCB).

2. List of Selected Historical Records in O/DDI, 1953-56 (memo dated April 11, 1957), especially series nos. 12, 13, and 19.

3. List of Selected Historical Records in ONE, 1953-56 (memo dated April 23, 1957), especially (but not exclusively) series no. 16.